

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04417 141536Z
ACTION ARA-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS SHUM AR
SUBJECT: GOA TO PREPARE NEW LIST OF DISAPPEARANCE CASES

FOA IS PREPARING A NEW LIST OF REGISTERED DISAPPEARANCE CASES TO DETERMINE HOW MANY ACTUALLY INVOLVE TRUE DISAPPEARANCES, ACCORDING TO GOVT SPOKESMAN JUNE 9. REPORTING ON WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS HELD BETWEEN PRESIDENT VIDELA AND INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TWO OFFICIALS DISCUSSED IMPLEMENTATION OF A "NATIONAL DIALOGUE" ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY (EXCLUDING PARTICIPATION OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AS SUCH, WHICH WOULD REMAIN SUSPENDED); POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST RADICAL PARTY MEMBERS NEVERTHELESS FOR ISSUING A POLITICAL STATEMENT LAST WEEK; AND CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS WHICH THE SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED AS "OUTSTANDING." ON THE QUESTION OF DISAPPEARANCE CASES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVT HAS RECEIVED ABOUT 2,000 DENUNCIATIONS OF DISAPPEARANCES WHICH THE GOVT INTENDS TO UPDATE IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THE VERACITY OF THE REPORTS. THE MAIN PROBLEM, HE SAID, WILL BE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN REAL DISAPPEARANCES, THOSE DUE TO THE CAUSES ENUMERATED BY THE PRESIDENT IN CARACAS AND OTHERS DUE TO PRIVATE AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL REASONS. IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE NEW LIST, PERSONS WHO HAVE REGISTERED DISAPPEARANCE CASES WERE ASKED TO VERIFY IF THE SUBJECT

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NANAD HAD SINCE REAPPEARED AND TO RATIFY AND CORRECT THE ORIGINAL DENUNCIATION. (IN CARACAS, VIDELA ADMITTED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE DISAPPEARANCES ARE DUE TO AN "EXCESS OF REPRESSION BY THE FORCES OF ORDER.") THE BA HERALD EDITORIAL (JUNE 10) GREETED THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS A "HEARTENING INDICATION THAT THE GOVT IS FINALLY GETTING TO GRIPS WITH A PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN TICKING AWAY LIKE A TIME BOMB." ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT

PROBABLY NOT ALL THE PERSONS CAN BE ACCOUNTED FOR, THE EDITORIAL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AND SAID (HOPEFULLY) THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES BBSTEPS ARE BEING TAKEN THAT MEAN THE WAR IS COMING TO AN END." THE CASE OF "NON PERSONS," IT CONCLUDES, IS PERHAPS THE MAJOR PROBLEM STANDING IN THE WAY OF A RETURN TO NORMALCY AND A TOTAL REJECTION OF VIOLENCE. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL MEAN LISTS OF DISAPPEARANCE CASES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC OR WILL RESULT IN A SINCERE GOVT EX ORT TO RESOLVE OR ANSWER

DENUNCIATIONS. AT THE LEAST, IT DOES, HOWEVER, SHOW THAT VIDELA IS ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS FRANK EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER DISAPPEARANCES IN ARGENTINA. HOW MUCH COOPERATION HE WILL GET FROM THE ARMY COMMANDERS AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES IN PRODUCING MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON

DISAPPEARED PERSONS
REMAINS TO BE SEEN. (SEE SEPTEL ON
PRESENT ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTSSITUATION.) VIDELA'S
ADMISSION OF PARTIAL GOA RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES
CONSTITUTES A SHIFT FROM TOTAL GOVERNMENT STONEWALLING OF
THE PROBLEM TO DATE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW LIST OF
MISSING PERSONS WAS THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP. THESE DEVELOPMENTS,
WE BELIEVE, ARE A RESPONSE TO SLOWY GROWING DOMESTIC AS
WELL AS INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES. HOWEVER TENTATIVE AND
MERELY SYMBOLIC THEY MAY BE, WE REGARD THEM AS
POSITIVE STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

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Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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